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Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

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## Submission to the Inquiry into the Fair Work Amendment (Small Business-Penalty Rates Exemption) Bill 2012

I am a 55 year old self employed male.

In the past lower paid workers weekend penalty rates have been the difference between families just making ends meet and the chance to put something aside for future spending or unexpected expenses.

These days penalty rates are more likely the difference between running out of milk or petrol before payday.

Like any business those trading as a seven day a week concerns have known overheads and paying the correct wages is simply part and parcel of doing business just like stock, rent, insurance, etc.

The call for workers to absorb a drop in wages if successful will push many closer to or below the poverty line forcing government to pick up the difference at greater cost to the community.

The old saying "beware of what you wish for" could well apply as the logical flow on with less money in the community is less custom for business's that rely on peoples spending power.

Leave all penalty rates alone, few if anybody does overtime for the purpose of spending more time away from home, loved ones and leisure time.

Submitted by

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